

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 31616 111816Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /079 W

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R 111653Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5370

INFO AMEMBASSIE BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 31616

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: CEMENT STRIKE ENTERS FOURTH WEEK

1. STRIKE, NOW IN FOURTH WEEK, BY 16000 WORKERS EMPLOYED BY CEMENT INDUSTRY, IS SHARPLY AFFECTING BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS. AN ESTIMATED 500,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HAVE BEEN IDLED FOR WANT OF CEMENT, ALTHOUGH INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THESE LAY OFFS. STRIKE LEADERS CLAIM CEMENT PRODUCTION CUT BY 80-0/0, WITH 31 OUT OF 64 PLANTS BEING CLOSED COMPLETELY. CREATEST EFFECT HAS BEEN IN SOUTH OF FRANCE. SITUATION IN PARIS AREA IS EXPECTED TO WORSEN RAPIDLY IF STRIKE CONTINUES, SINCE STOCKPILING IN CEMENT INDUSTRY NOT CUSTOMARY.

2. STRIKE ACTION, WHICH WAS ORIGINATED BY CGT/CFDT BUT JOINED BY FO AND CGC (CADRES), IS OVER DEMANDS FOR MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE OF 1400 FRANCS (\$3--), PLUS EARLY RETIREMENT, COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS, ETC., ALL OF WHICH EMPLOYERS COMPUTE AS 24.6-0/0 INCREASE OVER PRESENT WAGE PACKAGE - ROUGHLY TWICE WHAT MANAGEMENT PREPARED TO YIELD IN "FINAL OFFER". TALKS HAVE
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BROKEN DOWN AND GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED MEDIATOR UNABLE SO FAR TO BREAK IMPASSE.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE RUMORS OF CEMENT IMPORTS FROM GERMANY,
UNION SPOKESMEN CLAIMING STRIKE SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN WORKERS
AS WELL AS BY FRENCH TRUCKERS AND CGT-CONTROLLED LONGSHOREMEN
WHO HAVE SERVED NOTICE THAT THEY WILL REFUSE TO UNLOAD
IMPORTED CEMENT WHILE STRIKE STILL IN EFFECT.IRWIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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